

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The development work on Akash missile system has just been completed. The system is ready for User trials after which it will enter the production and induction phase.

Downsizing the Indian Army

†1526. **SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:**

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to downsize the Army, in view of the suggestions of some defence experts;

(b) to what extent it is appropriate to downsize the army, in view of the entry to terrorists from Pakistan and Bangladesh and the military preparedness of China and Pakistan;

(c) whether Government would strengthen the Navy and Air Force, without changing the military set-up, keeping in view the country's requirements; and

(d) by when the final decision in this regard would be taken?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Ministry of Defence at present.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Strengthening of Air Force and Navy by up-gradation of weapon systems and improvements of force structure is an ongoing process.

Resignation by Doctors and Engineers in Defence Forces

1527. **SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL:** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of doctors and engineers in the armed forces want to quit service;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the details of such doctors and engineers who have left their jobs during the last two years; and

(c) the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) There is no indication of any large scale increase in the number of engineers/doctors leaving the defence forces.

(b) and (c) The number of doctors and engineers belonging to Armed Forces who have left the service due to premature retirement/resignation during the last two years namely 2004 and 2005 are 73 and 385 respectively. The premature retirement/resignation applications are submitted by the doctors/engineers in the defence forces mainly on grounds of supersession and compassionate circumstances. The interest of the state is kept in view while considering such cases.

Preliminary Selection Centres for Army Recruitments

†1528. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of preliminary selection centres has been increased to encourage recruitments in the Indian army during the last three years;

(b) if so, the action taken by these centres as well as through them;

(c) the action taken in Scheduled Tribe dominated areas out of them; and

(d) the details of action taken to encourage recruitment as soldiers in Jashpur district of Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Wide publicity before a recruitment rally is given by the Recruiting Centre through State civil administration; media, Ex-Servicemen Association and also through motivation lectures in schools/colleges/ NCC camps etc.

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